

Fiscal TOPICS

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Budget Unit: Mississippi River Parkway Commission

BU Number: 6450S690810

Purpose and History

Representing the 10 states along the Mississippi River, the Mississippi River Parkway Commission (MRPC) was established in 1938 to develop plans for what was to become the present day Great River Road. The Great River Road was established using the Great Road, Blue Ridge Parkway, and Natchez Trace as models for a series of roads designed and managed to welcome visitors seeking Mississippi River experiences as they journey through the states bordering the Mississippi River. These states include Arkansas, Illinois, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Tennessee, and Wisconsin. The MRPC is responsible for the continued development, preservation, and promotion of the byway and its amenities. The MRPC cannot assert new regulations, infringe on private property, require adoption of new ordinances, or require participation in a corridor program.

Each State has its own individual commission. Iowa's Mississippi Parkway Planning Commission is established in [Iowa Code section 308.1](#) and is responsible for promoting transportation and tourism along the 326-mile Iowa Great River Road, running from Iowa's southern border with Missouri to its northern border with Minnesota. Specifically, the Commission develops and implements a Corridor Management Plan. This Plan includes establishing signage requirements, restrictions on outdoor advertising, methods to market and promote the Corridor, and many other actions to involve the public in the planning and promotion of the Great River Road in Iowa.

State Funding

The Department of Transportation (DOT) receives an annual appropriation from the Road Use Tax Fund (RUTF) for the Mississippi River Parkway Commission. This appropriation funds annual organization dues and operational costs.

Related Statute

[Iowa Code section 308.1](#)

More Information

Iowa Great River Road: <http://8.12.5.122/igrr/Home.aspx>

Mississippi River Parkway Commission: <http://www.mrpcmembers.com/index.php>

Iowa General Assembly: <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/index.aspx>

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